

~~SECRET~~

OP-4

Copy 3 of 12

25X1

17 OCT 1969

25X1 MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED] Chairman  
 Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : Photographic Coverage of the Sierra Snow Fields

REFERENCE : [REDACTED]

25X1

1. We will be happy to provide the additional coverage of the Sierra Snow Fields as requested in referenced memorandum.

25X1 2. [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] R&D office, will be the focal point for Mr. Baker. He will work directly with [REDACTED] of our operations staff who will schedule and conduct the operations necessary for the requested coverage.

25X1

3. We understand the coverage requested involves the same flight lines previously provided us by Mr. Baker and covered during the Spring of 1969. This repeat coverage will be run in October 1969 and then in March, April, May, and June 1970 for a total of five good imagery producing flights.

25X1

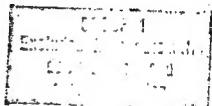
**DB/S&T  
FILE COPY**

[REDACTED]  
 DONALD H. ROSS  
 Brigadier General, USAF  
 Director of Special Activities

25X1

On file DOC release instructions apply.

25X1

~~SECRET~~

25X1

TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP72R00410R000100080005-5

AR-4

10 October 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brigadier General Donald H. Ross  
Director, Office of Special Activities

THROUGH : Deputy Director for Science and  
Technology

SUBJECT : Photographic Coverage of the Sierra  
Snow Fields

25X1  
25X1

1. The enclosed memorandum is largely self-explanatory.  
[redacted] with John Parangosky's concurrence, worked with  
[redacted] consultant to this Committee, and [redacted] now  
Chairman of the Imagery Collection Requirements Subcommittee of  
COMIREX, in arranging for repetitive coverage with the tracking  
camera of the U-2 of three major watersheds in the Sierra Nevadas  
during the late winter and spring of 1969. The watersheds were  
delineated on a map provided by Donald Baker, hydrologist in the  
National Environmental Satellite Center of ESSA, Department of  
Commerce. Twelve training missions by Agency U-2 aircraft were  
flown over these watersheds in response to ESSA's previous request.  
The processed film from the tracking camera was provided, without  
cost, directly to Dick Tarble, Chief Hydrologist of the Sacramento  
River Forecast Center, who analyzed the results of each mission  
immediately after receipt. It proved to be a very practical tool in  
forecasting potential water supply. He was enthusiastic in his reports  
to Washington regarding the usefulness of the material.

25X1

25X1

2. [redacted] has already been in touch with [redacted]  
about this current request. ESSA is asking only for the film from the  
tracking camera. If desirable, Don Baker (Code 157, Extension 7236;  
T-KH cleared) would be most happy to come to [redacted] office  
to discuss ESSA's requirement in detail.

25X1

25X1

DD/S&T  
FILE COPY

Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP72R00410R000100080005-5

[redacted]

Copy 3

25X1  
25X1

TOP SECRET

X1  
TOP SECRET

Approved For Release 2006/01/30 : CIA-RDP72R00410R000100080005-5

3. In view of the very practical application of such material by the Sacramento River Forecast Center and the attempt on the part of ESSA and Don Steininger to reduce the coverage requirement to a minimum number of five missions, assuming the quality of imagery from the tracking camera is adequate, I strongly urge that your organization make every effort to respond favorably to the enclosed request.

25X1

Chairman  
Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation

X1  
Enclosure: EOB

25X1

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

25X1

TOP SECRET

October 6, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR

25X1

[REDACTED] Chairman, COMIREX, CIA

SUBJECT: Photographic Coverage of the Sierra Snow Fields

As you will recall, a request was made by ESSA through [REDACTED] for photographic coverage of the Sierra snow fields during the spring of 1969. This coverage has been extremely useful and furnished information which could not be obtained in any other manner. For example, the photography showed much less snow over the Kern River Basin than predicted earlier; therefore, it was possible to make the decision not to release water from the reservoirs since the peak flow period had passed.

25X1

In view of the high value of the 1969 Agency aircraft-borne photography in managing the Sierra watershed, it is requested that five training flights be used for this purpose again. Assuming that the aircraft crew training schedule can accommodate this request, the following schedule will meet ESSA's requirements:

1. One "clear day" run during October before the first snow falls so that carry-over snow from last season can be determined.
2. Routine flights on or near the first of each month (27th to 4th) beginning March 1st through June 1st

25X1

[REDACTED]  
Donald H. Sterninger, Chairman  
ARGO Steering Committee

GROUP I

Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification.

[REDACTED]  
Copy 3 of 6

25X

TOP SECRET